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Editorial Comment

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The widespread reader interest and comment regarding the Spring 1972 symposium in *The Catholic Lawyer* on "Children and the Law"¹ has prompted The Saint Thomas More Institute for Legal Research to update the subject matter of that symposium in several articles which are featured in this issue of *The Catholic Lawyer*.

The conclusions of the 1972 symposium article dealing with the adoptive parent versus the natural parent are reexamined in light of the recent book *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child* by Anna Freud and her co-authors Joseph Goldstein and Albert Solnit. This book, which has been warmly hailed by an impressive array of judges, child welfare professionals and others concerned with children, insists that the child's perspective must be controlling in any judicial proceedings to decide custody issues.

Developing further the theme of the 1972 symposium article dealing with the necessity for equal educational opportunity for all children, the article dealing with education in this issue points up the need for legislative revision if such opportunity is to be achieved.

With respect to the application of correctional sanctions to child behavior, the 1972 symposium article dealt specifically with the case against jury trials in Juvenile Court. The article in this issue concentrates on a much broader theme — rehabilitation of the misbehaving minor in a climate divorced from prison or other traditional correctional institutions.

Elsewhere in this issue the call is sounded once again for a genuinely American jurisprudence. Reader attention is directed to the very scholarly article on that theme by Dr. John Underwood Lewis of the University of Windsor. He makes the point that the main function of law should be in directing people to their proper ends as citizens rather than in coercing them into doing the sovereign's will.


Editor

¹ 18 CATH. LAW. 89-167 (1972).